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DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE

THE REFORM OF THE CALENDAR

TO THE EDITOR OF SCIENCE: The brief article in the July 29 number of SCIENCE by Professor Reininghaus on reform of the calendar is opportune, and it is hoped that action will soon be taken for the appointment of an international committee who will give us a calendar well shorn of the many disadvantages of the present one.

In the year 1899 Moses B. Cotsworth, of York, England, had in type the main propositions for, and in 1902 he published in full, "The Rational Almanac" in a narrow octavo volume of 471 pages. This is an interesting and worthy book. In brief, its propositions are as follows:

Without disturbing the commonly accepted Gregorian Calendar or lengths of years, the advantages of the proposed permanent almanac could be realized by three simple steps, viz:

1. From Christmas Day, 1916, cease naming this day by any week-day name, and merely call it Christmas Day, which could thus be set apart as the extra Sunday to permanently combine the week-end holiday with Christmas, thus getting rid of the troublesome and unbusiness-like changing of week-day names for dates throughout future years. By naming Leap-year Day Leap Day, and as a public holiday without any week-day name, justice would be done to salaried servants, whilst maintaining fixed day names for each date.

2. Let Easter, Whitsuntide and other movable festivals be fixed (as Christmas is) to always fall on the fixed dates to be arranged for the year 1916 that will best suit the convenience, welfare and pleasure of the people. Easter could thus be permanently fixed in May as one of our longest open-air public holidays.

3. Divide the fifty-two weeks of the year into thirteen months of four weeks each, by inserting a mid-summer month to be called Sol.

Please give us an editorial on this subject,

and the desirability of an international committee.

CHARLES E. SLOCUM

DEFIANCE, OHIO

OCCURRENCE OF MISTLETOE (*PHORADENDRON FLAVESCENS*) ON *PRUNUS SIMONI*

THE writer recently found a number of Simoni plums at Newcastle, Cal., seriously parasitized by the yellow mistletoe, *Phoradendron flavescens* Nutt., which had infested the bodies and framework of these trees in much the same way as it is known to attack the buckeye (*Æsculus californica*). It was found that the mistletoe reproduced vegetatively, the haustoria spreading in the bark and giving rise, by buds, to numerous plants which produced a very twiggy appearance.

It is probable that the parasitism of this species of mistletoe on *Prunus simoni* has been previously reported, but the writer has not seen any reference to it.

P. J. O'GARA

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

SCIENTIFIC BOOKS

The Volcanoes of Kilauea and Mauna Loa on the Island of Hawaii; their variously recorded history to the present time. By WILLIAM T. BRIGHAM, A.M., Sc.D. (Columbia). From the Memoirs of the Bernice Pauahi Bishop Museum, Vol. II., No. 4, 4to, pp. vii + 222, 143 illustrations in the text; pls. XL.-LXVII. Honolulu, H. I., Bishop Museum Press. 1909.

In 1866 Mr. Brigham published in the quarto memoirs of the Boston Society of Natural History, Vol. I., parts 3 and 4, "Notes on the Volcanoes of the Hawaiian Islands," and in 1869 in the same memoirs, "Notes on the Eruption of the Hawaiian Volcanoes, 1868," amounting to 156 pages, 5 plates and 50 wood cuts. The present volume is a reprint of the "Notes" with certain omissions, emendations and additions, continuing the history to 1909, based upon original observations and the opinions of various visitors, written in the record books of the Volcano House. It is defined as a "connected story of the activities of the Hawaiian volcanoes in historic times" as free